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Letter dated 6 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 6 October 1999 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex, which contains a letter from Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the address made by Glafkos Clerides, the leader of the Greek Cypriot administration, to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, on 23 September, would be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 6 October 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the statement dated 25 September 1999 by Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in connection with the statement by the Greek Cypriot leader, Glafcos Clerides, on 23 September 1999 before the United Nations General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 63, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

Statement by Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus issued at Lefkoşa on 25 September 1999

I am dismayed by the speech delivered by Mr. Clerides purporting to speak on behalf of "Cyprus", at the United Nations General Assembly on 23 September 1999. Mr. Clerides, in his above-mentioned speech as well as in his recent statements, has been putting forward the following preconditions against the Turkish Cypriot people:

(a) He claims that the "Republic of Cyprus", which has been converted into a Greek Cypriot administration as a result of the forcible expulsion of the Turkish Cypriot people in 1963, is legitimate and represents the whole of Cyprus;

(b) He states that the inhuman embargoes imposed by the Greek Cypriot side will not be lifted;

(c) He reiterates that the unilateral and illegal European Union accession process of the Greek Cypriot side will be pursued;

(d) He continues to reject the sovereignty of the Turkish Cypriot side;

(e) He sets the precondition for the negotiations on the existence of the so-called "Republic of Cyprus", entailing single sovereignty, single international identity and single citizenship.

It is also pertinent to look at the practices of the Greek Cypriot administration and Mr. Clerides, who sets the above preconditions. Mr. Clerides, while mentioning demilitarization, is trying to disguise the fact that his administration has already completed military integration with Greece. It should not be forgotten that Mr. Clerides, while paying lip service to stability in the eastern Mediterranean, has at the same time attempted to deploy Russian S-300 missiles and proceeded to give military bases to Greece. The Greek Cypriot administration has not agreed even to the package of measures designed to reduce tensions as proposed by the United Nations over the last two years. A concrete example of Mr. Clerides' attempted distortion of facts is that he is trying to place onto others the responsibility for the political, economic, cultural and sportive embargoes implemented against the Turkish Cypriot people since 1963. This is Mr. Clerides' mentality.

Mr. Clerides, while insisting on the above preconditions, is attempting to hide the fact that the 1960 Republic of Cyprus was a partnership republic, that neither of the co-founder peoples constituting that partnership had the right to dominate the other and that by destroying the 1960 partnership republic through genocide the Greek Cypriot side still continues unabashedly in its attempts to covert it into a Greek Cypriot republic.

Mr. Clerides, by distorting reality, has tried to present the Cyprus issue as an internal matter which could be settled by certain constitutional arrangements. Mr. Clerides has also made known what his side expects from the Turkish Cypriots: to give up their sovereignty and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and agree to a kind of provincial rule in line with a settlement framework of their own perception. This is an illusion.

Mr. Clerides has also directed false accusations against our motherland, Turkey, which has prevented genocide, averted Enosis (union of Cyprus with Greece) and brought peace to the island for the last 26 years. Mr. Clerides has shown that he has no intention of abandoning the court cases instituted against Turkey in disregard of our existence and placed as an impediment against the negotiating process. Mr. Clerides' unacceptable mentality and expressed views only deepen the crisis of confidence on the island and once again demonstrates the lack of common ground for negotiation between the two sides. I am hopeful that the international community will draw the necessary conclusions from this situation.

In Cyprus, there exist two separate sovereign peoples. In 1960, the Turkish Cypriot people exercised its sovereign will in favour of a political compromise, and thus the 1960 partnership was established. When in 1963 the Greek Cypriots destroyed the partnership and resorted to violence with the aim of taking over the whole island, the Turkish Cypriot people exercised its free will in defence of its sovereignty and determination not to succumb to the Greek Cypriot yoke, and spent years in search of a final settlement through negotiations that would protect these rights. In the face of the continuing attempts by the Greek Cypriot leadership to take over the island, the Turkish Cypriot people exercised its sovereign will in favour of establishing its own State, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Presently each side exists under its own democracy, constitution and self-administration. In Cyprus the issue at hand is the attainment of a political agreement and reconciliation between the two States. To this end, it is necessary, above all, to create an atmosphere of trust and a common ground between the two sides. Mr. Clerides, in his recent statement, has shown, once again, how removed he is from the idea of reconciliation.

In order to reach a political solution, the preconditions set by the Greek Cypriot side must be removed, the sovereignty of the Turkish Cypriot people must be respected and their equal status must be accepted. If progress in the Cyprus issue has so far eluded us, the reason is to be sought in the 40-year-old Greek Cypriot policy of domination and the preconditions being put forward in this connection.

It is not possible to get anywhere with the mentality displayed by Mr. Clerides.

We have put forward our confederation proposal of 31 August 1998 in a constructive spirit for peace and reconciliation. We will continue with patience to defend our rights.